



Acquisition Directorate

New contracted UAS platform (V-BAT) provided by Shield AI.



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM CAPABILITY

FEATURES

- Deploying UAS capability for the NSC provides persistent, tactical airborne intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities without having to rely solely on an embarked helicopter, increasing maritime domain awareness and the effectiveness of NSCs.
- Utilizing a contractor-owned, contractor-operated commercial services contract means UAS equipment, operators and international logistics support is provided by the contractor.
- Both the ScanEagle and V-BAT UAS capability provide the NSC with 12+ hours of flight time for mission execution.

The Coast Guard is contracting unmanned aircraft system (UAS) capability as a cost-effective approach to provide a persistent airborne surveillance capability across the national security cutter (NSC) fleet. This approach meets a prescribed operational requirement for the NSC fleet, and use of UAS intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) services expands maritime domain awareness and collects actionable intelligence on maritime hazards and threats.

The service has focused its UAS acquisition efforts on technologically mature systems and commonality with programs of the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Defense, while incorporating other agencies' UAS experience. The Coast Guard currently has two commercial services contracts for UAS capability, one with Insitu (ScanEagle UAS) that expires in June 2026 and one with Shield AI (V-BAT UAS) that runs through June 2029. A two-year overlap was built in to maintain UAS services during the vendor transition.

A UAS consists of an unmanned aircraft, its mission payloads, launch and recovery equipment, ground support equipment and data and control links.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In seven years of operation, the NSC fleet deployed UAS capability over 1,200 times across 69 patrols, logging more than 8,000 flight hours of ISR services.
- The UAS capability on NSCs has been used to:
 - Support search and rescue cases that resulted in more than 100 lives saved or assisted.
 - Assist in the interdiction and removal of illegal narcotics valued at \$5.5 billion.
 - Support humanitarian relief efforts by providing real-time damage assessments following events including the Lahaina Maui, Hawaii, fire and Hurricane Dorian.
 - Aid in more than 110 living marine resources/illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing/commercial fishing vessel safety boardings.
 - Aid in medical evacuations.

Current contracted UAS platform (ScanEagle) provided by Insitu.



For updates on **MUAS capability**, visit the program's website at www.dcms.uscg.mil/acquisition